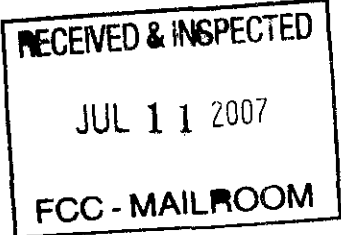


Frederick O. Maia

1020 Byron Lane, Arlington, TX, 76012

Telephone: (817) 795-9594



July 6, 2007

Federal Communications Commission

Office of the Secretary

445 12th Street, SW

Room TW-B204

Washington, DC 20554

Attention: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary

SUBJECT: PETITION FOR RULEMAKING

Dear Ms. Dortch,

As required by Sec. 1.419 of the Commission's rules, I am submitting an original and 10 copies of a Petition for Rulemaking proposing to amend the way that licensee records are updated in the *Commission Registration System* (CORES) and *Universal Licensing System* (ULS) databases.

These databases are maintained by two FCC Bureaus. The CORES database is maintained by the Office of Managing Director (OMD) and the ULS database is maintained by the Wireless Telecommunication Bureau.

Respectfully submitted,

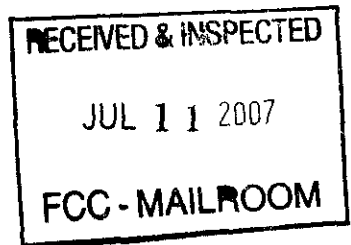
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frederick O. Maia".

FREDERICK O. MAIA

Encl: Original
10 copies.

No. of Copies rec'd 0 + 10
List ABCDE
WTB 07-36

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554



In the Matter of)

Amendment of Part 1 and Part 97)
to provide for improved and simplified)
updating of licensee records in the)
CORES and ULS databases)

RM-_____

To: The Commission

Petition for Rule Making

I, Frederick O. Maia, have been a Commission licensee for over 50 years and have been involved in rulemaking affecting the Amateur Radio Service for many decades. I hold an Extra Class amateur radio license with the call sign: W5YI. On September 13, 1982, President Reagan signed legislation into Public Law 97-259 to allow the FCC to accept the volunteer services of amateur radio operators to prepare and administer license exams.

On June 12, 1984, the *W5YI Group* was the first to be accepted to assist the Commission with the preparation and administration of amateur radio license examinations on a national basis. The following year, the *National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators* (NCVEC) was formed to standardize testing among the many different Volunteer Examiner Coordinators that had been appointed by the FCC.

At the age of 65, I retired from full time service with the *W5YI Group*, but still continue as a consultant to that organization. This petition is being submitted as an individual rather than as part of the *National Conference of VEC's* (NCVEC) or *The W5YI Group*.

I. Summary

Information on wireless licensees (including Amateur Radio operators) is currently contained in two databases, The *Universal Licensing System* (ULS) is maintained by the FCC's Wireless Telecommunication Bureau (WTB). The *COmmission REgistration System* (CORES) is maintained by the Office of Managing Director (OMD). With the exception of an applicant's *Taxpayer Identification Number* (TIN), the personal licensee information contained in these two database is exactly the same. The TIN for individuals is their nine-digit *Social Security Number* (SSN); a business uses their *Employer Identification Number* (EIN.)

The CORES database is completely separate from the FCC's *Universal Licensing System* database of licensees. Both are similar, however, and may be accessed using the same FRN and ULS password combination.

The CORES database really has degenerated into a listing of applicants and their SSNs (the only component of an FRN that never changes) since few radioamateurs (and we suspect licensees of other wireless services) know that, by law¹, they must keep their CORES listing updated. Strangely, updating the data contained in ULS does not update the CORES database even though the licensee data contained in each record is (with the exception of the TIN) exactly the same.

We propose that the CORES database be automatically updated when an applicant updates their ULS (name/address) record. FCC rules do not currently require that applicant telephone numbers, fax numbers or e-mail addresses be provided to either ULS or CORES and the FCC may wish to make submission of this additional informa-

¹ See Title 47, Telecommunication, Chapter 1, Part 1, Sec. 1.8002(b)(2).

tion mandatory in the Part 1 and Part 97 rules.

II. Introduction and Background

(1.) In 1998, the FCC proposed a new *Universal Licensing System* (ULS) that would replace several separate databases that contained data on its wireless licensees. The new integrated applicant database became operational and replaced eleven separate licensing systems the following year. The Amateur Radio service became part of the FCC's new *Universal Licensing System* on August 16, 1999.

Instead of having FCC personnel key in applicant data from a paper document - which sometimes took weeks to get to - applications would now be filed by the licensee or a VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator) representing the licensee. This greatly reduced the time it took for licenses to be issued ...or personal data updated.

ULS also made licensing information more accessible to the Commission staff and to the public who would now be able to access FCC records, conduct research and file applications and personal information amendments interactively online using a personal computer.

An applicant can update personal information in the ULS database by accessing his/her record using their FRN and password and selecting "update." The information that may be changed is an applicant's name, mailing address, phone, fax number (if any) and e-mail address.

(2.) As a prerequisite to doing business with the FCC all applicants are required to be registered in the *COMmission REGistration System* (CORES), supply their TIN (*Social Security Numbers* - SSN) to the government and be issued a 10-digit publicly available

customer identification number. Once registered, the applicant is supplied with a letter advising the applicant of their *FCC Registration Number (FRN)* and a password with which to access their FCC record. The use of FRN's began in 2001.

FRN's also assist the Commission in complying with the *Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA)*², a law enacted by Congress, requiring all federal agencies to collect *Taxpayer Identification Numbers* and to turn it over to the Treasury Dept. for any needed non-tax debt collection action.

The DCIA requires the FCC to withhold any benefit - including the processing or granting of any license, application or other authorization - when the applicant has a delinquent non-tax debt owed to the government. All applications must undergo a so-called "red light rule" screening certifying that the applicant does not have a non-tax debt owed the government prior to any benefit being granted.

Licensees may either apply for an FRN (1) using a paper document, (2) online prior to being licensed or (3) be automatically assigned an FRN as part of a batch filing by a VEC that contains the applicant's Social Security Number. The personal information required to obtain an FRN includes the applicant's name, address and Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)³.

An applicant can update his personal information in the CORES database by accessing

² See Department of the Treasury "*Debt Collection and The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996*" Fact Sheet located online at: <<http://fms.treas.gov/news-factsheets/dcia.html>>.

³ Sec. 1.8002(b)(1) requires "When registering for an FRN through THE CORES, an entity's name, entity type, contact name and title, address, and taxpayer identifying number (TIN) must be provided." There is no requirement that applicant telephone numbers, fax numbers or e-mail addresses be provided to CORES.

his/her record (at: <<https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do>>) using their FRN and ULS password and selecting "update." The information that may be changed is an applicant's name, address, phone, fax number (if any) and e-mail address.

Basically, the only difference between the information contained in the ULS database record and CORES database record is the existence of a *Taxpayer Identification Number* (SSN or EIN) in the CORES record.

(3.) The Amateur Service is governed by Part 97 of the Commission's rules. Section 97.23 requires that "Each license grant must show the grantee's correct name and mailing address" and that a license may be revoked if the grantee has failed to provide the correct mailing address.⁴

Part 1 covers FCC "Practice and Procedure." Part § 1.5 also requires that "Each licensee shall furnish the Commission with an address to be used by the Commission in serving documents or directing correspondence to that licensee. Unless any licensee advises the Commission to the contrary, the address contained in the licensee's most recent application will be used by the Commission for this purpose."

Amateur radio operators universally believe that if they have submitted an address change⁵ to the *Universal Licensing System* (ULS) that they have fulfilled their obligation to keep their personal information accurate. There is nothing in the Part 97 rules that obligates a licensee to also update the separate CORES database.

⁴ Although provision is made to accept them, Sec. 97.23 does not require that the applicant supply their telephone number, fax number or e-mail address to the ULS database.

⁵ Minor modifications (e.g., licensee name, address, etc.) to an existing license are made by filing an Administrative Update in ULS.

Section § 1.8002 "Obtaining an FRN," paragraph (b)(2), however, requires that an applicant additionally update the CORES database with the same information that he/she has previously updated to the ULS database. It reads: "(2) Information provided when registering for an FRN must be kept current by registrants either by updating the information on-line at the CORES link at <www.fcc.gov> or by filing FCC Form 161 (CORES Update/Change Form)."

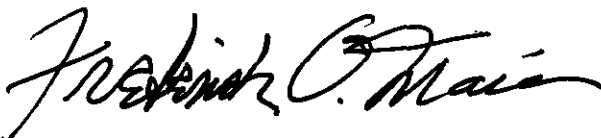
III. Conclusion

(4.) I believe that updated information supplied to the ULS database should automatically update the CORES database as well. A reasonably simple software modification should be able to also pass the updated information from the ULS database to the CORES database - especially since the same information is requested.

Therefore, the foregoing considered, I - Frederick O. Maia, W5YI - respectfully request that the Commission issue a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* at any early date, proposing the rule changes set forth in Appendix "A" or, if the notice and public comment procedure is not required, issue a final order amending the rules.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Frederick O. Maia, W5YI
1020 Byron Lane
Arlington, Texas 76012
(817) 795-9594

July 10, 2007

APPENDIX "A"

PROPOSED RULES

PART 1 -- PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1, is amended as follows:

1. Section 1.8002 Obtaining an FRN, is amended by revising paragraph (b)(2) to read as follows:

§ 1.8002 Obtaining an FRN

(b)

(2) Information provided when registering for an FRN must be kept current by registrants either by updating the information on-line at the CORES link at <www.fcc.gov>, by filing FCC Form 161 (CORES Update/Change Form), or by updating the *Universal Licensing System* (ULS.)

PART 97 -- AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

2. Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 97, is amended as follows:

Section 97.23, Mailing address, is amended by revising to read as follows:

§ 97.23 Mailing address.

(a) Each license grant must show the grantee's correct name and mailing address. The mailing address must be in an area where the amateur service is regulated by the FCC and where the grantee can receive mail delivery by the United States Postal Service.

(b) Updating your ULS information will also update the CORES database as required by Sec. 1.8002.

(c) Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct mailing address.